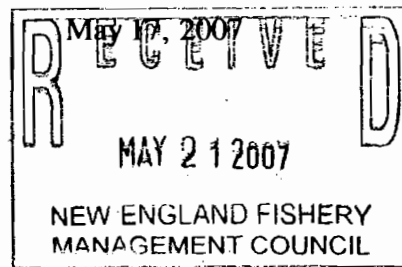


Mr. John Pappalardo, Chairman  
New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC)  
50 Water Street  
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950



Dear Chairman Pappalardo:

For the purposes of prospectively entering into a voluntary multispecies fisheries Sector (Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions under rules codified in, *among others*, Amendment 13, Final Rule found in *Federal Register*, Vol. 69, No. 81, April 27, 2004; Framework Adjustment 42 Final Rule found in *Federal Register*, Vol. 71, No. 204, October 23, 2006; and NOAA Fisheries Northeast Region Information Sheet No. 19 dated 05/01/04) we request that the NEFMC initiate a framework adjustment to authorize an allocation of catch or effort...(see: *Federal Register*, Vol. 69, No. 81, April 27, 2004 at page 22914).

Under 50 CFR Part 648, we understand that general requirements applicable to all multispecies Sector allocations that such allocation of catch or effort shall be based upon documented accumulated catch histories of harvested stock(s) for each vessel electing to fish in a sector, for the five year period prior to submission of a Sector allocation proposal to the NEFMC. For Georges Bank Cod the timeframe is Fishing Years 1996-2001, for sectors formed during the period/fishing years 2004 through 2007. Documented catch shall be based on dealer landings reported to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northeast Regional Office (NERO) in Gloucester.

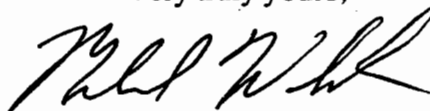
In that regard, we commenced our request of NMFS/NERO in letters addressed to Patricia Kurkul, Regional Administrator, provided to them in person on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 asking for our vessel "catch histories." In correspondence dated and postmarked May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007 we received our "catch histories" that enables us to pass along our proposal to the NEFMC. Our understanding of the regulations is that any required formal Environmental Assessment documents and Operations Plans and Sector Contracts can only be construed once "catch history" data (by permit/vessel) is

cc: tn/etc ~ 5/21/07

supplied to the voluntary sector members for analysis. Thus, we feel that our request for a framework adjustment is timely under the law (see: 50 CFR 648).

Further, we understand that the NEFMC Multispecies (Groundfish) Committee will be reviewing sector proposals received by the Council with the intent of developing a recommendation for the Council at a scheduled meeting on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007 in Providence. We request that our proposal be included in that review.

Very truly yours,



Pier 6 Initiative  
Boston, Massachusetts

bcc

Michael ~~Walsh~~ - walsh  
c/o 24 Rockland St.  
Natick, MA 01760